

Remarks

Claims 1-33 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 6-14, 17, 21, 22, 27, and 32 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 2-5, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23-25, 28, and 33 are amended. Claims 34-48 are added. Claims 2-5, 15, 16, 18-20, 23-26, 28-31, and 33-48 are now pending. Claims 23-25 and 28 are the independent claims. Reconsideration of the amended application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The examiner withdrew claims 6-14, 17, and 32 from further consideration, maintaining the previous restriction requirement. Claims 6-14, 17, and 32 are canceled.

The examiner rejected claims 5, 15, 19, 20, 26, and 29 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The claims are amended to address the examiner's comments, adding new claims 34-40 to recite features that were previously recited ambiguously. The rejection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 21, 22, and 27 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Chan et al. The examiner also rejected claims 1-5, 16, 21, and 22 as being anticipated by Yamakawa et al., claims 15, 20, and 33 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Applicant's disclosed prior art, and claims 18 and 19 as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Husar. The examiner also objected to claims 23-26, 28, 30, and 31 as depending from a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 23 is amended into independent form, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 21, which are canceled. The rejection of claim 23, therefore, should be withdrawn. New claims 41-43 depend from independent claim 23 and recite the features of dependent claims 2-4, respectively. It is therefore submitted that claims 41-43 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 23.

Claim 24 is amended into independent form, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 21 and 22, which are canceled. The rejection of claim 24, therefore, should be withdrawn. New claims 44-46 depend from independent claim 24 and recite the features of dependent claims 2-4, respectively. It is therefore submitted that claims 44-46 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 24.

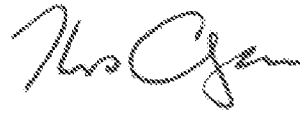
Claim 25 is amended into independent form, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 21, which is canceled. The rejection of claim 25, therefore, should be withdrawn. New claims 38 and 39 depend from claim 25, to recite features amended out of claim 26. New claims 47 and 48 depend from independent claim 25 and recite the features of dependent claims 2 and 3, respectively. It is therefore submitted that claims 38, 39, 47, and 48 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 25.

Claim 28 is amended into independent form, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 21 and 27, which are canceled. The rejection of claim 28, therefore, should be withdrawn. Claims 2-5, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 33 are amended to depend from independent claim 28. Claim 19 depends from claim 18. New claims 34-37 and 40 depend from claims 5, 15, 19, 20, and 29, respectively, to recite features amended

out of those claims. It is therefore submitted that claims 2-5, 15, 16, 18-20, 33-37, and 40 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 28.

It is submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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